

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 1. This sheet replaces the original sheet in its entirety. In Fig. 1, previously omitted element P_2 has been added.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-18 and 21-30 are pending. Claims 1-7, 11, 14, 18, 23, 26 and 29-30 have been amended. In light of the following, all of the claims are now in condition for allowance. If after considering this response the Examiner believes that not all of the claims are allowable, he is requested to schedule a telephone conference with the Applicants' attorney to further the prosecution of this application.

Objection to claims 2-3, 5-9, 12-13, 17, 21-22 and 26-30

Claims 2-3, 5-6 and 29-30 have been amended to overcome these objections. In addition, claims 2, 5 and 26 have been rewritten in independent form. Therefore, as indicated by the Examiner, claims 2-3, 5-9, 12-13, 17, 21-22 and 26-30 are now in condition for allowance.

Rejection of claims 1, 4, 10, 14, 16 and 23-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Takeda (US 5,978,891)

Claim 1

Claim 1 recites a waiting interval having a duration that is variable as a function of the address signal and of at least one operative parameter of said memory system.

For example, referring, e.g., to paragraphs 35-37, 57, 73 and 85 of the present application, a waiting interval t_w has a duration that is variable as a function of the address signal ADD_{dec} and of at least one operative parameter of said memory system

2. For example, the waiting interval t_w may be a function of the temperature T at which the memory system 2 operates, or a function of the memory system supply voltage V .

Takeda, on the other hand, does not disclose a waiting interval having a duration that is variable as a function of the address signal and of at least one operative parameter of said memory system. Instead, Takeda simply discloses a wait signal 407 that is a function of an access start signal 403 and a read/write signal 405 synchronized to a clock 406 (Figs. 3 and 4; col. 7, line 42 - col. 9, line 12). However, this has nothing to do with a waiting interval that is a function of at least one operative parameter of the memory system (such as an operating temperature or supply voltage). In fact, after

reviewing Takeda in its entirety, the Applicants' attorney is unable to find any mention of such a waiting interval. Therefore, Takeda does not satisfy the limitations of claim 1.

Claim 23

Claim 23 is patentable for reasons similar to those recited above in support of the patentability of claim 1.

Claims 4, 10, 16 and 24

Claims 4, 10, 16 and 24 are patentable by virtue of their respective dependencies from independent claims 1 and 23.

Rejection of claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Jeon (US 6,385,078)

Claim 18, as amended, recites a delay circuit operable to transition respective delay signals to proceed values substantially the respective delay times after the generation of the corresponding transition-detect signals, and to transition the wait signal to a proceed value when all of the delay signals have proceed values.

For example, referring, e.g., to Figs. 3 and 5 of the present application and the related disclosure, a delay circuit (10-12, AND, FF1) is operable to transition respective delay signals (ENDREAD_SEC, ENDREAD_ROW, ENDREAD_COL) to proceed values substantially the respective delay times (T10-T12) after the generation of the corresponding transition-detect signals (ATD_SEC, ATD_ROW, ATD_COL), and to transition the wait signal (WAIT) to a proceed value when all of the delay signals have proceed values.

The Examiner failed to include the above limitations in his interpretation of claim 18 in the Office Action. After reviewing Jeon in its entirety, the Applicants' attorney is unable to find any mention of such limitations. Therefore, Jeon does not satisfy the limitations of claim 18.

**Rejection of claims 11 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over
Takeda in view of Mori et al. (US 6,748,464)**

Claims 11 and 25 are patentable by virtue of their respective dependencies from independent claims 1 and 23.

**Rejection of claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takeda
in view of Hansen et al. (US 5,822,244)**

Claim 15 is patentable by virtue of its dependency from independent claim 1.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, claims 1-18 and 21-30 are in condition for allowance, and that action is respectfully requested.

In the event additional fees are due as a result of this amendment, you are hereby authorized to charge such payment to Deposit Account No. 07-1897.

If, after considering this response, the Examiner does not agree that all of the claims are allowable, then it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the Applicants' attorney, J. Mark Han, at (425) 455-5575.

DATED this 8th day of August, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments: Replacement Drawing Sheet
Annotated Sheet Showing Changes
Return Postcard
Petition for Extension of Time (2 mo)
Certified Copy of Priority Document
Transmittal Form

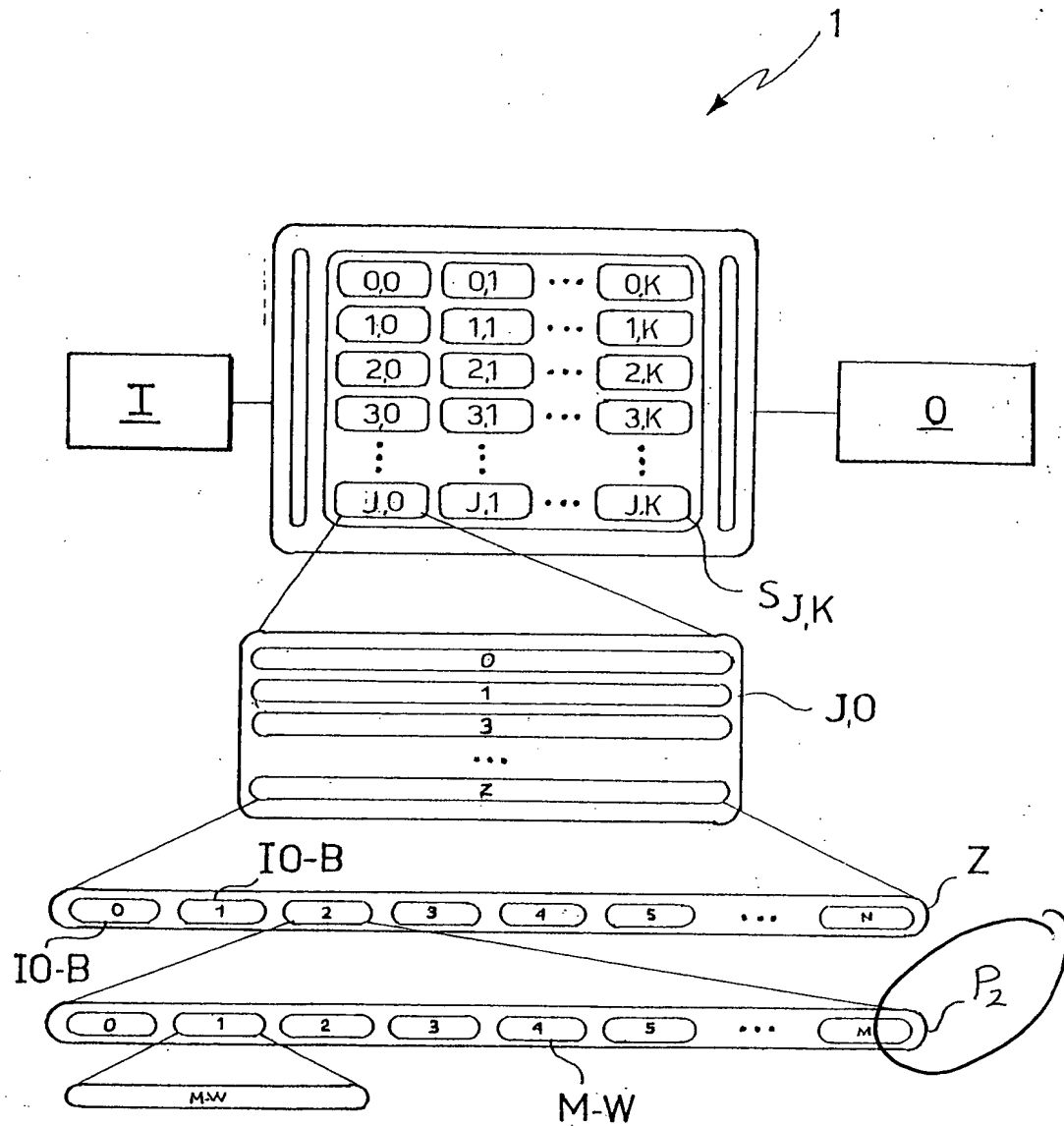


FIG. 1